

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TOKYO 12117 100959Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----067322 101002Z /10
O 100926Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 059

S E C R E T TOKYO 12117

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MARR, ESTC, US, UR
SUBJECT: FORESTALLING ACQUISITION OF SOVIET DEEP SEA SEARCH
CAPABILITY

REF: STATE 188039

1. IT APPEARS THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL LAGS IN COMMUNICATION ABOUT PRESENT SITUATION. NEC TOLD US AFTERNOON AUGUST 10 THEY UNDERSTAND THAT HYDRO PRODUCTS ENGINEERS ARE STANDING READY TO PROCEED TO JAPAN TO INSTALL EQUIPMENT THAT WILL LIMIT USE OF SYSTEM TO 3000 METER DEPTHS RATHER THAN 6000 METERS SPECIFIED.

2. IF ABOVE INFORMATION CORRECT AND HYRDO'S PEOPLE CAN COME SOONEST, NEC IS PREPARED TO HAVE MODIFICATION MADE AT ITS FACILITIES AND START INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT IN SOVIETS VESSEL AROUND AUGUST 20. THEY PLAN NOT TO MENTION THAT DEPTH CHARACTERISTICS HAVE BEEN ALTERED, LEAVING THAT PROBLEM UNTIL LATER WHEN AND IF SOVIETS TEST EQUIPMENT IN DEPTHS BELOW 3000 METERS. THEY NOTE THAT INSPECTORS DUE AUGUST 15 WILL OBVIOUSLY NOT BE ABLE CHEKC DEPTH CAPABILITY. IF SOVIETS SUBSEQUENTLY COMPLAIN, NEC WILL QUITE PLAUSIBLY DENY KNOWLEDGE THAT CHANGE WAS MADE AND
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REFER SOVIETS TO HYDRO.

3. IT TURNS OUT THAT EQUIPMENT WAS ENTERED INTO JAPAN INTO BONDED WAREHOUSE FACILITIES TO AVOID CUSTOMS DUTIES SINCE PRODUCT BEING RE-EXPORTED AND IS LEGALLY STILL PROPERTY OF OCEAN SYSTEMS JAPAN. NEC WAS TO TAKE CUSTODY FOR BEGINNING OF INSTALLATION

PROCESS TODAY, AUGUST 10.

4. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT APPEARS TO US THAT, IF USG CONCURS, BEST SOLUTION IS FOR HYDRO ENGINEERS TO PROCEED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY BEFORE THIS WEEKEND AND COMPLETE MODIFICATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN FACILITIES PROVIDED BY NEC. WE SEE NO ADVANTAGE TO MOVING EQUIPMENT TO U.S. NAVY CUSTODY. IN ANY CASE WE WOULD NOT WANT TRANSFER TO BE CARRIED OUT OPENLY BY U.S. OFFICIALS.

5. HOPE DEPARTMENT AND NAVY WILL URGE ALL PRIVATE CITIZENS INVOLVED TO AVOID TELEX COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS SENSITIVE SUBJECT. NEC SHOWED US TELEX FROM STRICKLAND OF HYDRO MARKED "CONFIDENTIAL" WHICH SPELLS OUT MANY DETAILS OF DEPARTMENT INTEREST.

6. DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONSIDER REPEATING THIS AND OTHER PERTINENT MESSAGES TO COMNAVFOR JAPAN YOKOSUKA.

7. DEPARTMENT CABLES TO EMBASSY SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED WITH AT LEAST IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE.
MANSFIELD

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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